In the claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 20, 30, 33, 45, and 47; and add new claims 55-57.

1. (Amended) An oligomeric compound conjugated to [a ligand] an arylpropionic acid that interacts with a protein.

2. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 wherein said [ligand] arylpropionic acid binds to said protein.

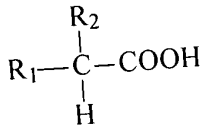
5. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [3] 1 wherein said [drug moiety is aspirin, phenylbutazone,] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, [palmityl] or carprofen.

6. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [3] 5 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

11. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 further including a linking group attaching said [ligand] arylpropionic acid to said oligomeric compound.

13. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 wherein said compound [is an oligonucleotide comprising] comprises a plurality of nucleosides connected by covalent internucleoside linkages.

21. (Amended) The oligomeric compound of claim [20] 1 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

26. (Amended) A method of increasing the concentration of an oligonucleotide in serum comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylproprionic acid that is known to bind to a serum protein;

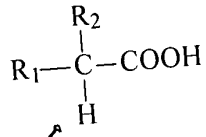
(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is [aspirin, warfarin, phenylbutazone,] ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen[, naproxen, dansylsarcosine, 2,3,5-triiodobenzoic acid, flufenamic acid, folinic acid, mycophenolic acid, a benzothiadiazide, chlorothiazide, a diazepine, indomethicin, a barbiturate, a cephalosporin, a sulfa drug, an antidiabetic, an antibacterial or an antibiotic].

31. (Amended) The method claim 26 wherein said arylpropionic acid [drug moiety] is ibuprofen.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

39. (Amended) A method of increasing the capacity of serum for an oligonucleotide comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid that is known to bind to a serum protein;

(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said serum protein is a protein having a binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said serum protein is a protein having a binding site for said oligonucleotide and a binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid; wherein said binding site for said oligonucleotide is distinct from said binding site for said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid.

43. (Amended) A method of increasing the binding of an oligonucleotide to a portion of the vascular system comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid is that is known to bind to a protein that resides, in part, in the circulating serum and in part in a non-circulating portion of the vascular system;

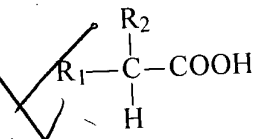
(b) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said vascular system.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is [aspirin, warfarin, phenylbutazone,] ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (*S*)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen[, naproxen, dansylsarcosine, 2,3,5-triiodobenzoic acid,flufenamic acid, folinic acid, mycophenolic acid, a benzothiadiazide, chlorothiazide, a diazepine, indomethicin, a barbiturate, a cephalosporin, a sulfa drug, an antidiabetic, an antibacterial or an antibiotic].

46. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein said arylpropionic acid has the formula:



wherein:

[one of] R_1 and R_2 [is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl and the other of R_1 and R_2 is aryl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are C_1 to C_{12} alkyl; or

both R_1 and R_2 are aryl[,] are each independently C_1 to C_{12} alkyl or aryl.

53. (Amended) A method of promoting cellular uptake of an oligonucleotide in a cell comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a protein that resides on the cellular membrane and extends, at least in part, on the external side of said membrane;

(b) selecting [a drug moiety] an arylpropionic acid is that is known to bind to said protein;

(c) conjugating said [drug moiety] arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(d) exposing said cell to said conjugated oligonucleotide.

--55. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.

56. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 28 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.

57. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 32 wherein said serum protein is human serum albumin.--

REMARKS

Upon entry of the proposed amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-19, 21-29, 31, 32, 34-44, 46, and 48-57 will be pending. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification. No